CROSSGEN CHRONICLES

CrossGenuine Excitement

Since their first public appearance at last year's San Diego Comicon International, upstart comics publishing company **CrossGen Comics** has made it their mission to make the comics industry and fandom stand up and take notice. Company founder and entrepreneur *Mark Alessi* has been both an outspoken critic and advocate of the industry both in online community and in the comics press. The company has conducted and extensive media campaign to make readers aware of their impressive headquarters just outside of Tampa, Fl, as well as their innovative production techniques and hiring practices. Heck, they've even offered fans a money back guarantee.

But all of their marketing efforts - no matter how impressive and extensive - are just preliminaries to their first real test as a publisher - the actual release of their first real product. And while CrossGen has had a series of preview books released into the market earlier this year, readers will get their first chance to see just what all the fuss is about this May and June with the release the first issues of ***CrossGen Chronicles***, a bimonthly series that encompasses the entire fantasy/sci-fi based **CrossGen Universe**, as well as their first monthly titles - ***Mystic***, ***Sigil***, ***Scion*** and ***Meridian***.

Though all their titles are set on their own, very distinct worlds, the **CrossGen Universe** is linked by a common thread, a mystical symbol called the sigil - a glowing mark that appears suddenly on unsuspecting individuals activating amazing powers within them. Each title will focus on one character - a sigil-bearer - and how the each characters manifestation of power affects their life and society and how they come to terms with it.

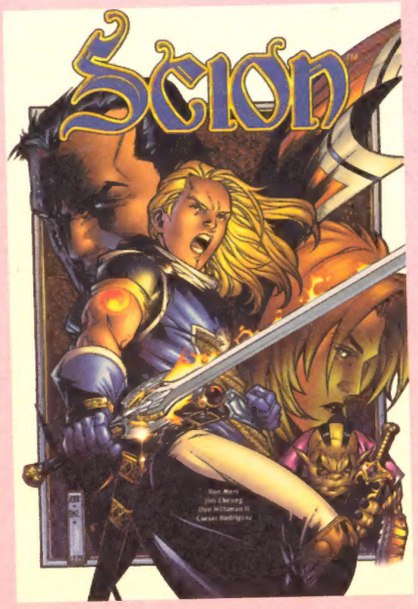
Mystic, by writer *Ron* (***Green Lantern***) *Marz*, penciler and CrossGen's Art Director, *Brandon Peterson*, along with inker *John Dell* and colorist *Andrew Crossley* stars Giselle, a carefree party girl who couldn't care less about the very thing that powers her entire world - magic. On her planet, the practice of magic is commonplace - it's the everyday technology that fuels their society and culture. Taxis fly powered by incarnations and schoolchildren practice casting spells for their home work, but Giselle wants nothing to do with it - even though her own sister Genevieve is a one of the most powerful magicians of her world.

On the day very Genevieve is to be appointed as Master of one of their world's seven theocratic magical guilds, Giselle receives the sigil, and as a result gains more mystical power anyone on her world has ever held, setting off a course of events that threatens the fabric of their society, not to mention driving a rift between sisters.

The second monthly title, ***Sigil***, by CrossGen's head writer *Barbara Kesel*, with art by newcomers *Ben* and *Ray Lai*, has a bit of a harder, science fiction edge. The series is set in a technologically advanced world that's still governed by old-fashioned monarchies as well as their society's thirst for war and battle.

A war between two races, the humans and the Saurians began with a misunderstanding over the translation of the word "human", and escalated into a several-worlds war between the two races that continues even after laying waste to both sides homeworlds.

According to CrossGen, "The humans evolved into the five-world Planetary Union, a confederation of sovereign states. The Saurians have a far-flung monarchy still ruled by a single dynasty rooted in their homeworld. Division among the human worlds has slowed their technological progress. The Saurians have single-mindedly focused on development of the Arc Interstellar drive and plasma-casting weapons, finding successes that have given them two great advantages the humans desperately want. Both sides are tired of their war, but have not reached the point where the question can be settled diplomatically. The truce state they enter on the gaming world of Tanipal may be the key to a peaceful future. "Into this guarded zone come two mercenary ex-soldiers, Samandahl Rey and Roiya Sintor. Out for a night on the town, they go looking for trouble and stumble into a surprise Saurian attack that leads them into a galaxy-spanning chase, and changes their lives forever."

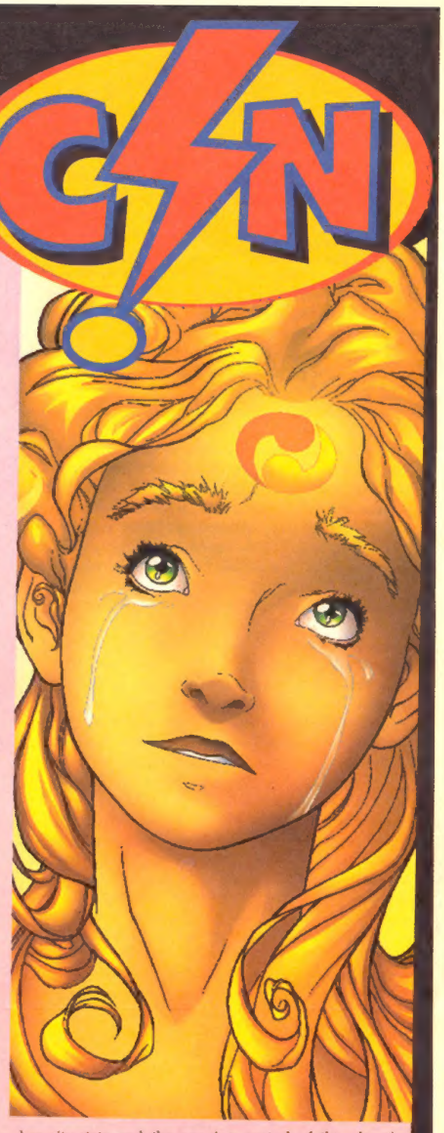


Scion, written by Marz, with penciler *Jim* (***X-Force***) *Chueng*, inker *Don Hillsman* and colorist *Caesar Rodriguez* on art, in is a coming of age story set on a medieval/fantasy world who's mediveval trappings ands traditions actually hides advanced technology, as well as a darker side, the society has misused their technology to genetically engineer "inferior", or 'Lesser" races.

The series stars Ethan, an heir in a world where ritual combat in traditional tournaments keep the peace between long-warring eastern and western kingdoms. During one such tournament - one that happens to be held his 21st birthday, "Ethan brings the world to the brink of war with one stroke of his energized sword. Seemingly tied to the sigil on his arm, the deed is done and cannot be repaired. When Ethan tries to atone for this mistake, he is instead trapped in the country of his hereditary enemies where he meets a beautiful young woman who seeks equality for the Lesser races. With East and West waging war, Ethan is torn between his duty to his family and his convictions."

The final monthly title ***Meredian***, by Kesel, rookie penciler *Joshua Middleton*, inker *Dexter Vines* and colorist *Mike Atiyeh* is Kesels' most personal book, one she writes specifically for the ten year-old girl she once was, which would make the series very unique in the marketplace in that sense.

Meridian stars Sephie, the beloved only child of a respected Minister and has the entire floating city of Meridian as her playground. According to CrossGen, "The floating cities of Demetria developed trade based on the primary resources of their world: the buoyant ore and the floating wood. Over the years, family-based Ministries were formed to govern the different city-states. Each Minister deeds the responsibility for administration to the Minister's eldest child or a designated successor. Fighting over the succession is the cause of most of the conflict on Demetria. In a world rich with back-stabbing and intrigue, Meridian is the exception." When the sigil is placed on two different but connected people, the Daughter of Meridian becomes a pawn in the hostile takeover of her city-state and the ongoing control of the planet's diminishing resources masterminded by the second Sigil-Bearer. Sephie must survive the greatest tragedy she could imagine in order to become the leader Meridian needs.



Finally, the bi-monthly title, ***CrossGen Chronicles***, by Marz, Kesel, and penciler *Claudio Castellini* takes a macro approach to the **CrossGen Universe**. This series features The First, ancient beings whose way of life is threatened and disrupted by the very existence of the Sigil-Bearers, awakening the warrior spirit they all hold inside. The Sigil-Bearers have gained a new enemy in the First, who are keeping a careful eye on them.

CrossGen Comics has expanded all four of the first issues of its monthly titles while keeping the same $2.95 cover price. ***Mystic #1***, ***Scion #1***, and ***Meridian #1*** will now include five new pages, bringing their page counts to 27 pages of story and art. ***Sigil #1*** will now include 11 additional pages, bringing its page count to 33 pages of story and art.

And although CrossGen promises each title can be read individually, the publisher also says events unfolding in the course of each individual title will provide "hints of the big picture behind the scenes." Will readers ever get to see that "big picture" develop? Guess we'll start to find out May 24 when ***Crossgen Chronicles*** debuts. It will be 48 pages priced at $3.95.

by Michael Doran

Courtesy of your Friendly Neighborhood Comics Outlet!

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BEATTY-MANIA

Sometimes we just plain goof up. Take, for instance, our recent reference to ***Robin Year One***; we talked about *Chuck Dixon's* involvement in the book in a recent ***CSNsider***, but due to an oversight we didn't say a word about co-writer *Scott Beatty*. Thankfully, *Scott* isn't the kind of guy who holds a grudge, and he was more than willing to give us some more info about this and other projects he's working on.

He started with some information on the upcoming ***Robin: Year One*** project. "For the most part, ***Robin: Year One*** centers on what it means for Dick Grayson to be Batman's partner...and what happens when all of that is brutally taken away," Beatty said. So, with Robin out on his own, what kind of dangers will he face? The type of danger that can stay with your for a while. "An overconfident Robin will face Two-Face's Double Gallows deathtrap--an event mentioned briefly in the Bat-books ***Prodigal*** storyline--with dire consequences," *Beatty* continued. "And as a result of that ill-fated adventure, readers will finally learn why Dick Grayson holds such contempt for Two-Face." *Beatty* and *Chuck Dixon* are enjoying splitting the chores on this special series, that fits into standard Batman continuity right behind the ***Batman Chronicles: The Gauntlet*** one-shot, which showed how Dick Grayson was able to assume the Robin identity in the first place.

On top of the Robin project, *Beatty* has several other projects in the works. He scripted the ***Green Lantern 80-Page Giant #3*** that explains why the GL Corps never bothered to take out Darkseid and Apokolips. After that, *Beatty* will script the ***Green Lantern: Ring of Fire*** special that ties into the upcoming fifth week event for DC this August. *Beatty* and *Dixon* will also join forces again next year for a super secret project, and while *Beatty* couldn't provide any details, he did make one promise: "It doesn't involve raising the dead, time travel or monkeys." Beyond that, you're going to have to keep looking to ***CSN*** for the details on this project.

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Editorial Office:
2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
fax (770) 973-6949
cliffbig@earthlink.net

Business Office:
4135 LaVista Rd.
Ste. 610-PMB-110
Tucker, GA 30085 (30084 Fedex)
(770) 939-1364
fax (770) 939-8898
wardo@mindspring.com

Publisher
Comic Shop News, Inc.

Visit our WWW site at:
http://www.csnsider.com

Editors
Cliff Biggers & Ward Batty

STAN LEE AND DC PRESENT!...

Stan Lee, the mastermind behind the Marvel Age of Comics, writing for DC, the company that launched the superhero genre? It's true—but that doesn't even hint at the excitement that this amazing merger will offer fans beginning later this year.

The culmination of many friendly conversations between *Stan Lee*, *Paul Levitz*, and others over the years, the new venture will offer fans a chance to see what the DC Universe might have been like had *Stan Lee* created this world rather than the Marvelverse. This will mean that fans will get to see *Stan Lee*'s take on such characters as Superman, Wonder Woman, Batman, Green Lantern, and the Flash, to name a few.

Pros are every bit as excited about this as fans are, with many of the industry's best regarded talents, including *Dave Gibbons*, *Adam Hughes*, *Bruce Timm*, *Joe Kubert*, and *John Buscema* taking part in the project. Formats are still up in the air, but at press-time it appears that the Lee-DC books will consist of twelve extra-length prestige-format one-shots. The first book in the series will be ***Just Imagine Stan Lee With John Buscema Creating Superman***. The other books will include *Lee* teaming with *Jim Lee* for Wonder Wom an, and *Dave Gibbons* on Green Lantern. *Gibbons* is particularly excited by the prospect, "he has a sort of contract with the audience, and he's not just doing things out of some artistic self-indulgence."

Stan Lee himself is looking forward to this chance to handle characters that are all new to him. "I'll probably make a million enemies among die-hard fans, but I'm a great admirer of these characters and the genius behind their creation. I'm just doing them different." *Lee* continued, "of course, if they like mine better, it won't break my heart."

MILLER TIMES TWO

Frank Miller first made his reputation more than twenty years ago with his work on ***Daredevil***. Shortly after his groundbreaking run on the series came to an end, he helped revitalize the superhero field again with ***The Dark Knight Returns***. *Miller's* work has branched into so many differing directions since then that many presumed that he would never return to superheroes—but *Miller* is nothing if not unpredictable!

In early April, *Frank Miller* revealed that he is returning to both ***Daredevil*** and ***The Dark Knight*** with a pair of new projects. For Marvel, he will be writing a new ***Daredevil*** project to be illustrated by *Bill Sienkiewicz*. For DC, he will be writing and illustrating an all-new sequel to ***The Dark Knight Returns***, tentatively slated for 2001 launch. As more information on these two series is made available, ***CSNsider*** will bring you more details.

DARK HORSE IN JULY

There are some great books headed your way this July from Dark Horse, and here's a sneak peek.

Dark Horse Presents #155 will feature a new Angel story, with Cordelia getting her own starring role at last. The issue will also feature Iron Reich 3000, with one man facing off against a thirty foot robot on the open battlefield. $2.95

Manga fans will be delighted to hear that *Kosuke Fujishima'a* ***Oh My Goddess*** series will be continuing with the release of the new *Part Nine: Pretty in Scarlet* story. Skuld has discovered an egg that will grant her a guardian angel like her big sister, Belldandy, but she doesn't find out about it until after she's eaten it for breakfast. You really can say that she's an angel inside now.

The adventures of everyone's favorite Vampire Slayer are collected in the new ***Buffy The Vampire Slayer: Crash Test Demons*** trade paperback. This new book reprints issues #9-11 of the ongoing series.

Will Eisner brings his work to Dark Horse in July with the release of the ***Last Day in Vietnam*** graphic novel. This is the memoir of stories about soldiers both on the battlefield, and in their own personal wars. *Eisner* spent many years in the military making trips for ***P.S. Magazine***, and he has gathered some of his favorite stories in this volume.

One of the most popular creative teams at Dark Horse are at it once again, with the release of the new ***Space Circus*** four-issue limited series. *Mark Evanier* and *Sergio Aragones* bring you the story of a young man that runs off to join the Doodah Brothers' Astral Travelling Entertainment and Fun Brigade.

Some of the best stories from the Maverick imprint are gathered together in a special sampler this July. ***Dark Horse Maverick 2000*** features stories from creators such as *Jason Pearson*, *Stan Sakai*, *Paul Chadwick*, and others, and everything kicks off with a cover and story by *Frank Miller*.

Elsa Cameron has made one too many enemies, and she's about to find out what being a Ghost is all about. ***Ghost #21*** has Malcom Greymatter and Elsa Cameron facing off against each other head-to-head.

Three pieces of absurd humor are gathered together this July in the pages of ***Sergio Aragones Groo Jamboree***.

Spyboy #10 pays tribute to some of the great spy movies by having Spyboy have a deadly aerial battle with one of the most dangerous S.K.I.N.S. agents—without a parachute. Plus, the winner of the ***Previews*** "Spyboy Gadget Contest" is announced.

If you are going to be a Jedi, you have to pass a test, and that test is never the same thing twice. ***Star Wars: Jedi Academy—Leviathan*** collects the limited series by *Kevin J. Anderson*, *Dario Carrasco, Jr.*, and *Mark Heike*.

He might just look like an old sock, but he sure knows how to cause trouble. ***Sock Monkey*** collects the series by *Tony Millionaire* this July.

The sequel to the acclaimed ***Grasscutter*** special hits the pages of ***Usagi Yojimbo #39***. *Stan Sakai* delivers a mythic level story set in the era of Feudal Japan.

UPCOMING DC COMICS IN JULY

The creative forces at DC have some big plans for July, and here's some of the top highlights.

The Man of Steel gets to see things from a very different point of view this summer, as his world turns upside down. ***Superman: Arkham*** is the title for the first months story that is so big that it takes two full months to tell, running through all of the regular Superman titles, along with a special one-shot. Everything begins with ***Superman #160***, and running through ***Adventures of Superman #582***, ***Superman: The Man of Steel #104***, and concluding in ***Action Comics #769***. The story pits Supes against the JLA—well, it's actually more like a JLA, since it features such classic heroes as Scorch, The Abyss, Ignition, Gorgeous Gilly, and the greatest hero, Bizarro. Thankfully, Bizarro is able to capture the black and silver clad Superman every night when he escapes from the confines of Arkham asylum. The second month of the story reveals the villain that has turned Superman's world upside down, making him the world's deadliest villain, Lois, the richest woman in Metropolis, Bizarro the world's greatest hero. DC is

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keeping their mouth shut on who is behind the scenes, but check with ***CSNsider*** next month for the grand revelations.

The first original ***Sandman*** graphic novel by Neil Gaiman and Yoshitaka Amano has only been available as a hardcover until now. ***The Sandman: The Dream Hunters*** softcover reprints the original book with a brand new cover by Amano.

There are many theories that revolve around the concept of time travel, and most of them deal with something called paradox. You know, the concept that if you travel back in time and change the past, then the future will be altered in any number of ways. Get ready for ***The Remarkable Worlds of Phineas B. Fuddle***, a new four-issue limited series that follows the life of one man with a time machine that wants to make the future a better place...again and again and again...

Two art styles work with each other to tell the twin tales of ***Star Trek: Voyager—Avalon Rising***. This special one-shot includes artwork by *David Wenzel* and *David A. Roach* reflecting the two different looks for the series. *Wenzel* provides the artwork for the fantasy world that Voyager's holographic doctor must explore to benefit the crew and their quest, while *Roach* provides the artwork for the technical world of the Voyager and her crew.

One of *Alan Moore's* immensely popular comics in the America's Best Comics line gets a reprint in a grand tradition with the new ***Tom Strong Book One Hardcover***. The first seven issues of the series are reprinted with a new cover by series artist *Chris Sprouse*.

One of the classic heroes of the Justice League makes a grand return to DC this July with three books that bring him back to prominence. ***Hawkman Archives Volume One*** reprints ***The Brave and the Bold #34-36*** and ***#42-44*** and ***Mystery in Space #87-90***. July will also see the release of the ***Millennium Edition Flash Comics #1***, reprinting the first story of the Golden Age Hawkman. Then, the modern Hawkman makes a new arrival with the three-issue ***Legend of the Hawkman*** prestige format limited series, that reintroduces Katar and Sheyera, the couple from the planet Thanagar that decide to make Earth their home. This series reveals why they stayed on Earth, and the legacy that they left behind.

Before DC took us to the 23rd Century, they explored the world of the 20th century. ***DC Two Thousand*** is a two-issue prestige format series that has the original JSA meeting face to face with a group of tightly clad heroes that call themselves the JLA, and have travelled back through time to stop the future from being changed by the villain, T.O. Morrow—but the JSA aren't sure that the future the JLA represents is one worth saving.

DC is releasing a second set of ***JSA PVC Figures***. This 7-piece set includes Black Canary, the Atom, Hawkman, the Spectre, Dr. Fate, Wonder Woman, and Mr. Terrific in carefully crafted figures ranging from 3.75" to 4.25" tall.

If you like your golden age characters a little taller, then you will want to check out the new ***Golden Age Flash***, the ***Golden Age Green Lantern***, ***Golden Age Wonder Woman***, and ***Golden Age Starman*** figures, each with eleven points of articulation.

The Human Target trade paperback collected edition will be out this July, reprinting the four issue limited series that brought a whole new Christopher Chance to comics for the first time. This new collection will feature an original cover by *Tim Bradstreet*.

The legend of Superman is turned on its ear this summer, with the ***Superman: Last Son of Earth*** prestige format limited series. A scientist makes a discovery: the world will soon be destroyed, and everyone must make plans if their society is to continue. The scientist is named Jonathan Kent, and the planet is Earth. Jonathan sends his child in a primitive rocket to a distant planet known as Krypton, and the legend will never be the same.

The hardcover edition was a huge success, and now you can enjoy it in softcover. ***Superman: The Dailies Trade Paperback Volume One*** reprints the original comic strip by Superman creators *Jerry Siegel* and *Joe Schuster*. The entire series will take three volumes to reprint, plus a fourth for the Sunday strips; a small investment for a great return.

The fastest man alive is slowing down. ***Flash #164*** begins the new six-part storyline, "Wonderland," by *Geoff Johns*, with art by *Angel Unzueta* and *Doug Hazelwood*. The Flash has lost his powers, and finds himself in a jail cell, with one of his oldest enemies his jail keeper, and he has to figure out how this Flash-less world has come into being.

The Flash: Dead Heat collects the story of the same name into one volume. This book reprints ***Flash #108-111,*** and ***Impulse #10-11.***

In the past, and especially in the wake of the events of ***No Man's Land***, Batman has enjoyed a good relationship with the law of Gotham, and James Gordon in particular. That's about to change. ***Batman: Outlaws*** is the three-issue prestige format series that brings a special group of Government agents named The Bloodhawks to the newly rebuilt city to insure that it no longer suffers from the plague of costumed characters that have infected it—at any cost. Long time fan favorites *Doug Moench* and *Paul Gulacy* team to bring you this new story set firmly in Batman continuity.

What starts out as an innocent night of drinks at the bar turns into a bloody mess of a fight at the bar. ***Hitman/Lobo: That Stupid Bastich*** is a one-shot that will pit the deadliest mercenary in the galaxy against one of the mercenaries at Noonan's Bar. This dark comedy is by *Garth Ennis* and *Doug Mahnke*, who are no strangers to the genre.

Original ***Hellblazer*** writer *Jaime Delano* and artist *Philip Bond* join forces for the ***Hellblazer: Bad Blood*** four-issue limited series. In the year 2025, the throne of England sits empty, and there are no legitimate claims to the throne. Enter John Constantine: 72-years-old and as feisty as ever, he's out to find the last living Royal, or at least give it a go himself.

When you've got to go, you can always go with this. ***The Mad Bathroom Companion*** trade paperback features not only collects some of the wackiest moments in Mad history, it also includes a new introduction by ***South Park's*** *Trey Parker*.

The wildest dinosaur in comics is back. ***Gon On Safari*** collects four new stories in black and white that features the breathtaking artwork of *Masashi Tanaka* and some of nature's most unusual members.

The ***Planet DC Annuals*** continue with the release of three more this July. ***The Titans Annual #1*** teams Beast Boy and Flamebird with the Titans regular to face off against the Japanese hero known as Bushido. ***The Flash Annual #13*** has the speesters meeting up with the greatest heroes of Argentina. ***Green Lantern Annual #9*** takes Kyle to Tunisia to meet the sword wielding hero known as Sala.

The success of the Millennium Editions carries on this summer. There are four new offerings headed your way: ***Flash Comics #1*** reprinting the first appearance of The Flash, Hawkman, Johnny Thunder and more; ***House of Mystery #1*** reprints one of the earliest horror comics from DC; ***Mysterious Suspense #1*** reprints the first full-length story of *Steve Ditko's* The Question; and ***Police Comics #1*** features the debut of Plastic Man, as well as a Chic Carter story by *Will Eisner*.

One of the true legends of the industry puts pencil to paper to produce an all new story for ***Batman: Gotham Knights #7***. *Steve Ditko* provides a black and white back-up story that was written by *John Arcudi* in this very special issue.

At long last, the Birds of a feather flock together—but is it too late to make a difference. ***Birds of Prey #21*** brings *"The Hunt for Oracle"* storyline to a conclusion, and a possible conclusion to their partnership as they are surrounded by a group of hired killers, but at least they finally know what they both look like in person.

This is a book filled with crazy ladies. ***Catwoman #84*** guest stars Harley Quinn, and will bring an unexpected change of direction to Selina's life at last.

Tim Drake's life is about to go through a big change, and Robin has nothing to do with it. ***The Robin 80-Page Giant*** features the wedding of Jack Drake, and there is a very unusual gift in store for the whole Drake family.

The Warlord returns in the pages of ***Aquaman #71***. Arthur makes a trip to the land of Skartaris at the core of the Earth, and finds another monarch with a chip on his shoulder.

Hitman is coming to a conclusions, and the final story begins in ***Hitman #53***. *"Closing Time"* has Tommy Monaghan trying to help a close friend, only to put him at odds against the deadliest foe he has ever faced.

The earliest days of J'Onn J'Onzz on Earth are revisited in the special stand alone ***Martian Manhunter #22***. The Dark Knight guest stars as the Manhunter tries to track a killer—one he suspects to be the feared figure known as Batman.

The final issue of ***Stars and S.T.R.I.P.E.*** hits the shelves this July. ***Stars and S.T.R.I.P.E. #14*** has the kid facing off against her deadliest foe ever, Dad.

She's made of clay. He's made of clay. You would think that they were a natural team, but it doesn't seem that it's going to work that way. ***Wonder Woman #160*** has Diana answering the call of the Cheetah, only to discover the Ultimate Clayface, who has plans of his own—and it involves getting his hands on a piece of her clay. No, literally.

New York has been destroyed by a tidal wave. San Francisco is under a new volcano. Asia and Africa are under attack by millions of insects. Thousands are dying by the hour, and Earth's greatest heroes have no answers. ***The Authority #17*** pits the team against danger on a biblical level in a new four-part story.

The long awaited conclusion to the series arrives at last. ***The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen #6*** brings the acclaimed series to an end—at least, for now.

Lucifer #4 will feature a stand-alone story that features a young girl named Elaine Belloc who can see dead people. When she tries to solve a murder mystery, it looks like she's going to need the help of the Devil himself to get out alive.

If action figures are a little to stiff for you, then you are going to be delighted to hear about DC's new line of soft toys. The toys won't be out until fall, but you need to order them from your store now to ensure that you get the one that you want. The first series of soft toys will include ***Bat-Mite, Death, Delirium,*** and ***Mr. Mxyzptlk***.

The beautiful series of Batman statues will continue with the new ***Batman Vampire Statue***. This statue is based on the designs of *Kelley Jones*, but won't ship until this fall.

Black Canary is the next in *Alex Ross'* breathtaking series of posters, with an image of the character from the Silver Age in her classic fishnet costume. At the same time, you can look for the Canary's boyfriend, ***Green Arrow***, to arrive in another striking image by Ross.

The fabled ***Bottle City of Kandor*** is the latest of the DC replica props. This 9.5" x 8" reproduction lights up in a similar manner to the Kryptonite prop. ***The Bottle City of Kandor Prop*** is scheduled to ship in December.

If you have a bunch of tiny books, then you will be thrilled to hear about the new ***Sandman Mini-Bookend Set***. This is a smaller version of the original bookend set that featured both Morpheus and Daniel looking into crystal balls.

This November, DC will release a ***Superman Snow Globe***. The globe contains an image of Superman descending into the Fortress of Solitude. How much it's snowing around the fortress at that time depends entirely upon you.

FAB FIRSTS

By popular demand, CSN offers a list of first issues, zero issues, and stand-alone single issues making their appearance in May. The First Faves choices are listed first, followed by the remainder of the month's premiere issuese; each listing carries a Diamond Comic Distributors' code number after the publisher's name for each item. This way, if you're interested in an item that your friendly local comic shop doesn't routinely stock, you can tell them exactly how to locate and order it for you!

FIRST FAVES
(THE BEST FIRST ISSUES APRIL HAS TO OFFER!)

❒**ANCIENT WARRIORS #1** Caliber MAR001470 $4.95
Historic saga focusing on Genghis Khan

❒**BATMAN: ITS JOKER TIME #1** 5/31 DC MAR000145 $4.95
Can Batman stop a plan to psychoanalyze the Joker live on prime-time television?

❒**CALIBER DOUBLE FEATURE #1** Caliber MAR001471 $3.95
Featuring Prowl and The Rain People

❒**CALIBER FOCUS #1** Caliber MAR001472 $3.95
Featuring an extra-length Black Mist adventure

❒**CITY OF SILENCE #1** Image MAR000854 $2.50
Warrren Ellis and Gary Erskine present a dystopian future series with Transmetropolitan overtones

❒**COMIC READER MAGAZINE #1** 5/17 TCR APR001840 $4.95

❒**COMICOLOGY VOLUME 2 #1** Two Morrows MAR001813 $5.95
New contemporary-comics-focused magazine from the publishers of Kirby Collector and Comic Book Artist

❒**CROSSGEN CHRONICLES #1** 5/24 CrossGen MAR001524 $3.95
Meet the heroes of the CrossGen Universe in a 48-page special book by Ron Marz, Karl Kesel, and Claudio Castellni; this is the first appearance of the characters who will star in CrossGen's four monthly titles debuting in June

❒**DARK ANGEL PHOENIX RESURRECTION #1** Image MAR000922 $2.95
New full-length original full-color series by Kia Asamiya, done for the American market

❒**DARK CROSSINGS SPECIAL: DARK CLOUD RISING #1** Image MAR000900 $5.95
Featuring Tomb Raider, Witchblade, The Darkness, Fathom, and other Top Cow heroes in a grand crossover adventure

❒**EMPIRE #1** Image MAR000853 $2.50
MarkWaid and Barry Kitson tell the tale of a world-conquering tyrant who got just what he wanted—and now he discovers that being king of the world isn't always that great... or that easy!

❒**EPOCH #1** Epoch MAR001585 $4.95
New anthology book

❒**FANTASTC FOUR: GRIMM AND LOGAN #1** 5/31 Marvel MAR001156 $2.99
Find out what happened when Wolverine and The Thing collided before they donned colorful costumes

❒**GEEKSVILLE VOL 2 #1** Image MAR000929 $2.95
The Three Geeks decide it's time to publish their own comic, while Sky Branovan stars in her own backup story

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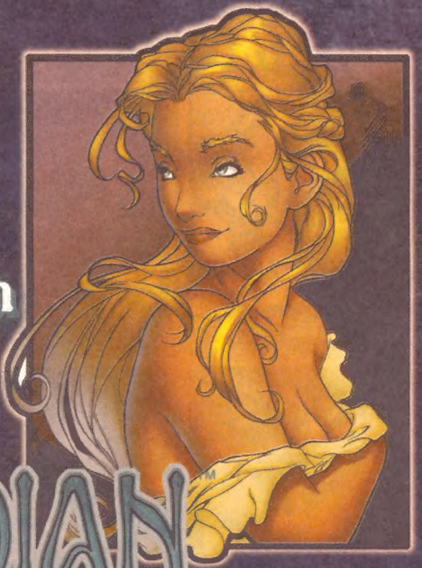

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